

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, 25 and 27 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2, 4-9, 11, 13, 15-18, 20, 22- 24, 26 and 28-30 have been canceled by this amendment.

Applicant notes that minor editorial amendments have been made to the specification for grammatical and general readability purposes. No new matter has been added.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 19-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claim 19, Applicant notes that this claim has been amended so as to indicate that the program is recorded on a computer-readable recording medium, thereby rendering the claim statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101. Regarding claim 21, Applicant notes that this claim depends from claim 19 and is therefore also directed to statutory subject matter. Regarding claims 20 and 22-24, as noted above, these claims have been canceled by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-noted rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 1-3, 6, 9, 10, 12-14, 17, 19-21 and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino (US 6,201,610) in view of Kadota et al. (US 2001/0043723).

Claim 1, as amended, recites the features of a division unit operable to obtain the print data from outside the print control device, and to divide the obtained print data into a plurality of files, wherein the plurality of files correspond to respective individual areas of the contents to be printed, each of the individual areas being smaller than a page of the contents to be printed; wherein, when the detection unit detects that a file has not been read out successfully and the individual area corresponding to the file is specified, the division unit (i) obtains the print data from outside the print control device by causing a device outside the print control device to resend the print data, (ii) extracts, from the resent print data, information included only in the specified individual area out of all information included in the resent print data, and (iii) generates, from the extracted information, a new file different from the file detected by the detection unit as not having been read out successfully; and wherein the read and write unit writes the generated new file into the storage unit.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ogino and Kadota do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted combination of features recited in amended claim 1.

In particular, with respect to Ogino, Applicant notes that this reference discloses an image forming apparatus that reads images of a series of original documents and outputs a series of image data items, wherein the image forming apparatus has the ability to control an output order of the series of image data items (see col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 6).

Based on the foregoing description, Applicant notes that while Ogino discloses a printing apparatus having the ability to control the output order of image data items, that Ogino does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features recited in amended claim 1 of a division unit operable to obtain the print data from outside the print control device, and to divide the obtained

print data into a plurality of files, wherein the plurality of files correspond to respective individual areas of the contents to be printed, each of the individual areas being smaller than a page of the contents to be printed; wherein, when the detection unit detects that a file has not been read out successfully and the individual area corresponding to the file is specified, the division unit (i) obtains the print data from outside the print control device by causing a device outside the print control device to resend the print data, (ii) extracts, from the resent print data, information included only in the specified individual area out of all information included in the resent print data, and (iii) generates, from the extracted information, a new file different from the file detected by the detection unit as not having been read out successfully; and wherein the read and write unit writes the generated new file into the storage unit.

In addition, with respect to Kadota, Applicants note that this reference discloses a printing system which includes a host computer 20 and a printer 30, wherein the host computer 20 outputs image data to the printer 30 (see Fig. 1). As disclosed in Kadota, the printing system includes an output complete determination means for determining whether or not the image data for one page had been completely transmitted from the host computer when a printing error occurred (see paragraph [0040]).

In this regard, as explained in Kadota, upon determining that the image data was not completely transmitted to the printer, the printing system has the ability to discard, by a discarding means located at the printer, the part of the data that was transmitted to the printer, and to retransmit the image data to the printer after the printer recovers from the printing error (see paragraphs [0040] through [0043]).

Based on the foregoing description, Applicant notes that while Kadota discloses the

ability to retransmit image data to the printer from the host computer after the printer recovers from the printing error, that Kadota does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features recited in amended claim 1 of a division unit operable to obtain the print data from outside the print control device, and to divide the obtained print data into a plurality of files, wherein the plurality of files correspond to respective individual areas of the contents to be printed, each of the individual areas being smaller than a page of the contents to be printed; wherein, when the detection unit detects that a file has not been read out successfully and the individual area corresponding to the file is specified, the division unit (i) obtains the print data from outside the print control device by causing a device outside the print control device to resend the print data, (ii) extracts, from the resent print data, information included only in the specified individual area out of all information included in the resent print data, and (iii) generates, from the extracted information, a new file different from the file detected by the detection unit as not having been read out successfully; and wherein the read and write unit writes the generated new file into the storage unit.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Ogino and Kadota does not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 3 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claims 12 and 19, Applicant notes that each of these claims has been amended in a similar manner as claim 1. In particular, claims 12 and 19 now recite the features of a division step of obtaining the print data from outside a print control device, and dividing the

obtained print data into a plurality of files, wherein the plurality of files correspond to respective individual areas of the contents to be printed, each of the individual areas being smaller than a page of the contents to be printed; wherein, when it is detected, in the detection step, that a file has not been read out successfully and the individual area corresponding to the file is specified, the division step further comprises: obtaining the print data from outside the print control device by causing a device outside the print control device to resend the print data; extracting, from the resent print data, information included only in the specified individual area out of all information included in the resent print data information; and generating, from the extracted information, a new file different from the file detected in the detection step as not having been read out successfully, and wherein, in the write step, the generated new file is written into the storage unit.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art references do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in claims 12 and 19. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 12 and 19 are patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 14 and 21 depend from claims 12 and 19, respectively, and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claim 25, Applicant notes that this claim has been amended so as to recite the features of features of a division unit operable to obtain the print data from outside the print control device, and to divide the obtained print data into a plurality of files, wherein the plurality of files correspond to respective individual areas of the contents to be printed, each of the individual areas being smaller than a page of the contents to be printed; wherein, when the detection unit detects that a file has not been read out successfully and the individual area

corresponding to the file is specified, the division unit (i) obtains the print data from outside the print control device by causing a device outside the print control device to resend the print data, (ii) extracts, from the resent print data, information included only in the specified individual area out of all information included in the resent print data, and (iii) generates, from the extracted information, a new file different from the file detected by the detection unit as not having been read out successfully; and wherein the read and write unit writes the generated new file into the storage unit.

For at least similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art references do not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in claim 25. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 25 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claim 27 depends from claim 25 and is therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

B. Claims 4, 15, 22 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino in view of Kadota et al., and further in view of Aschenbrenner et al. (US 6,738,153). Initially, Applicant notes that Aschenbrenner does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Ogino and Kadota, as discussed above, with respect to the features recited amended claims 1, 12, 19 and 25. Further, as noted above, claims 4, 15, 22 and 28 have been canceled by this amendment.

C. Claims 5, 16, 23 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino in view of Kadota et al., and further in view of Kim (US 6,101,243).

Initially, Applicant notes that Kim does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Ogino and Kadota, as discussed above, with respect to the features recited amended claims 1, 12, 19 and 25. Further, as noted above, claims 5, 16, 23 and 29 have been canceled by this amendment.

D. Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino in view of Kadota et al., and further in view of Murata (US 2004/0012806). Initially, Applicant notes that Murata does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Ogino and Kadota, as discussed above, with respect to the features recited amended claim 1. Further, as noted above, claims 7 and 8 have been canceled by this amendment.

E. Claims 11, 18, 24 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino in view of Kadota et al., and further in view of Tsunekawa (US No. 2002/0015171). Initially, Applicant notes that Tsunekawa does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Ogino and Kadota, as discussed above, with respect to the features recited amended claims 1, 12, 19 and 25. Further, as noted above, claims 11, 18, 24 and 30 have been canceled by this amendment.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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